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Downham Market Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1952

To which is appended the Report of
the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor
Mr. W. D. WAINE, M.I.MUN.E., M.R.SAN.I.

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Downham Market Urban District Council

Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. C. E. Bowman, *Chairman.*

Mr. H. Alflatt
Mr. C. F. Bennett
Mrs. I. M. Burbeck
Rev. W. B. S. Dorman
Mr. A. C. Dye
Mr. A. L. Fox
Mr. J. Hinton
Mr. D. Sneezum

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Dr. C. T. Darwent, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Also holds the appointments of:—

Asst. County Medical Officer of Health
Asst. County School Medical Officer
Medical Officer of Health to Downham Rural District
Medical Officer of Health to Marshland Rural District.

SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR:

W. D. Waine, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I.

STOKE FERRY,

June, 1953.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour in presenting to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances, health and vital statistics of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

The general health of the area has been very satisfactory and apart from epidemics of Measles in May and June, which numbered 106 cases, the town has been free of any serious infectious diseases.

The statistics for the year under review show that the Birth Rate has increased from 13.4 to 18.9 per 1,000 of the population.

The Death Rate, however, is higher at 25.5 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 14.9 for 1951. The majority of the deaths occurred between the ages of 45 and 65 plus.

I should like to thank the Members of the Council for the courteous manner in which they have received my reports and suggestions, and also to your Clerk, Mr. Dodman, and Mr. Waine, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, for their co-operation and assistance in my duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. T. DARWENT,

Medical Officer of Health.

To The Chairman and Members
of the Downham Market
Urban District Council.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1952.

Area (in acres)	1,003
Population, 1931	2,465
Population, 1951 (Estimated)	2,675
Population, 1952 (Census)	2,741
Number of Separate Dwellings Occupied, 1952	905
Rateable Value, 1952	£15,962
Product of Penny Rate, 1952	£61

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total	Male	Female	Rate Downham Urban	England & Wales	Administrative County
Legitimate	45	26	19			
Illegitimate	7	4	3			
	52	30	22	18.9	15.3	15.0

STILL BIRTHS. Nil — 22.6 19.58

DEATHS of Infants under 1 year. Nil.

DEATHS of Infants under 4 weeks. Nil.

DEATHS (all causes).

Total	Male	Female	Rate. Downham Urban	England & Wales	Administrative County
70	32	38	25.5	11.3	11.29

DEATHS from Puerperal Causes, etc. Nil.

DEATHS from

Cancer (all ages)	9
Measles (all ages)	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

SECTION A

Natural and Social Conditions

Area (acres)	1,003
Population (last Census, 1952)	2,741

DEATHS. The total number of deaths assigned by the Registrar-General, after adjustment for inward and outward transfers, was 70, as compared with 41 in 1951.

BIRTHS. The number of births assigned to the District was 52, as compared with 36 in 1951.
The comparability factors as supplied by the Registrar-General are: Births 1.14, and Deaths 0.76.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were again no maternal deaths in the District.

INFANT MORTALITY. No child under 1 year of age died in the District during 1951.

STILL BIRTHS. No Still Births were notified.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services

1. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES
   Norfolk Executive Council, 54, Prince of Wales' Road, Norwich. *Clerk* — R. J. Cobb, Esq.

2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD
   Senior Administrative Medical Officer:
   Dr. J. B. Ewen, M.D., D.P.H.,
   Croft-Holme, 117, Chesterton Road,
   Cambridge.

(a) General.
- (i) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital Norwich.
- (ii) West Norfolk & King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (iii) Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.
- (iv) St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn (for chronic sick).
- (v) The Howdale Home, Downham Market.

(b) Maternity.
- (i) West Norfolk & King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit).
- (ii) Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

(c) Infectious.
- (i) County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.
- (ii) Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.

(d) Sanatoria.
- (i) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.
- (ii) Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt.

(e) Mental.
- (i) St. Andrew's Hospital, Norwich.
- (ii) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
- (iii) Heckingham Sanatorium, Norwich.
- (iv) Little Plumstead, Norwich.

3. MATERNITY SERVICES.

(a) District Nurses.

Nurse Reeves, 2, London Road, Downham Market.

Downham Market, Downham West.

(b) Maternity. Beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments: Stow Hall Maternity Home, Stow Bardolph.

4. AMBULANCE and HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

This is a County Council function and is controlled by the Joint Ambulance Committee. It is worked on an Agency basis by the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John and W.V.S.

The Downham Urban area is served by the Downham Market Ambulance.

Infectious Disease cases are conveyed by East Dereham and King's Lynn Infectious Disease Ambulances.

5. RED CROSS MEDICAL LOAN DEPOT.

Downham Market. Mrs. I. M. Burbeck, Court House.

6. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) The Downham Market Infant Welfare Centre.

Is held at the Health Office, Howdale Road.

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health is in attendance at the session which is held from 2 to 4 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

I must register my warm appreciation of the voluntary help given at each session by the ladies of the local branch of the British Red Cross.

(b) School Minor Ailment Clinic.

This is under the supervision of the School Nurse, who is in attendance at 10 a.m. every Wednesday during the term.

The Clinic is held at Area Health Office, Howdale Road.

The Assistant County M.O.H. attends one session a month or more often should the necessity arise.

(c) School Dental Clinic.

This is at present closed, as no Dental Surgeon is available.

(d) Home Help Service.

The County Home Help Scheme is working smoothly and judging by results — the efforts of the five occasional Home Helps — are greatly appreciated. There are now 67 Occasional Home Helps for Downham Rural, Downham Urban and Marshland Rural.

7. VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC.

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital:

Males	*Females and Children*
Tuesdays & Fridays 7 p.m.	Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 3 p.m.

8. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

(i) Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Sanitary Inspector's staff.

(ii) Disinfestation of bedding, clothing, etc., which cannot be carried out by this department, are sent to the East Dereham Isolation Hospital.

9. LABORATORY SERVICES.

(a) Public Health Laboratory,
Isolation Hospital,
Bowthorpe Road,
Norwich.

Under the direction of Dr. I. M. Dowsett.

(b) Public Analyst:
W. Lincoln Sutton, Esq., F.R.I.C.,
Redwell Street,
Norwich.

SECTION C

Prevalence Of and Control Over Infectious and other Diseases

SMALL POX	Nil.
SCARLET FEVER	1, aged 15 years.
DIPHTHERIA	Nil.

A very satisfactory report. The advisability of encouraging parents to have young children inoculated against diphtheria has met with a satisfactory response. A combined solution of Whooping Vaccine and Alum Precipitated Toxoid is now available free of charge to all General Practitioners in the area. Those doctors who prefer to have the vaccines in separate bottles can obtain these by applying to the Area Health Office, Howdale Road.

Under 1 yr.	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	Mid 1952 Child Population
—	14	42	36	32	165	139	0-4 yrs. 240 / 5-14 yrs. 344

Total Immunised: 428. Percentage: 73.7%.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Three cases were officially notified during 1952. A vaccine is now available to all doctors free of charge. A combination of this vaccine combined with that for Diphtheria is also available.

MEASLES.

Contrary to the good report for 1951, in which year there were only two cases, there was rather an epidemic during the months of May and June. The total number of cases for the year was 106. The age groups chiefly affected were: one year, three years and five years.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives the number of new cases of Tuberculosis (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary) during 1952.

T.B. all forms			Rate per 1,000 population Downham Market U.D.	County Rate
Male	Female	Total		
1	—	1	0.36	0.13

SECTION D

Table No. 1.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1952.

Causes of Death.

	Causes of Death.	*Male.*	*Female.*	*Total.*
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm: Stomach	1	2	3
11.	Malignant Neoplasm: Lung, Bronchus	1	—	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm: Breast	—	—	—
13.	Malignant Neoplasm: Uterus	—	1	1
14.	Other Malignant Lymphatic and Neoplasm	2	2	4
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	—	1	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	11	12	23
18.	Coronary disease: Angina	2	2	4
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	1	1
20.	Other Heart diseases	4	7	11
21.	Other Circulatory diseases	3	2	5
22.	Influenza	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	3	1	4
24.	Bronchitis	—	—	—
25.	Other diseases of the Respiratory system	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis, Nephrosis	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostrate	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	7	12
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—	—
34.	All other Accidents	—	—	—
35.	Suicide	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
	ALL CAUSES	32	38	70

DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN. Table No. 2.

Causes of Death of Children under One Year, 1952.

Causes of Death.	Age in Weeks. 1	2	3	4	5-52	Total
I. Congenital Malformations						
II. Disease of Early Infancy						
(a) Congenital Debility						
(b) Premature Birth						
(c) Injury at birth						
(d) Atelectasis						
(e) Others						
III. Diseases of Respiratory System						
IV. Diseases of Nervous System						
V. Diseases of Digestive System						
VI. Tuberculosis Disease						
VII. Infectious Disease						
VIII. Syphilis						
IX. Overlaying						
X. Violence						
XI. All other causes						
Total ..						Nil

Table No. 3.

New Cases of and Deaths from Tuberculosis, 1952.

Age in Years	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
— 1								
— 5								
—15								
—25								
—35								
—45								
—55	1							
—65								
65 and Over								
Total	1							

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. Table No. 4

Other than Tuberculosis.

Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	*Total*
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Measles ..	....	....	....	3	51	49	3	....	....	....	....	....	106
Whooping Cough ..	....	....	....	1	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Erysipelas ...	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Pneumonia ...	....	....	4	....	....	1	....	....	1	....	1	....	7
Infective Jaundice	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Dysentery	....	....	....	—	....	....	....	....	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	....	....	4	5	51	52	3	....	1	....	1	....	117

Table No. 5.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.
Notification in Age Groups, 1952.

Disease.	*Under 1 year*	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 & *Over*	*Total*	*Removed to Hospital*	*Deaths*
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	15	—	22	—	62	3	1	2	—	—	—	106	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	7	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	16	—	24	—	65	4	2	2	1	1	—	117	—	—

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR and SURVEYOR

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit particulars of work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1952.

1. **Inspections during the Year.**
   (a) Number of Houses inspected for defects 59
   (b) Number of Inspections for the purpose 124
   (c) Number of Houses found not to be fit in all respects for human habitation 39

2. **Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice** 28

2a. **Remedy of Defects after Service of Formal Notice.**
   (a) Housing Act, 1936 .... Nil
   (b) Public Health Act, 1936 2
   Closing Orders were made on three houses.

3. **Number of New Houses Built or under Construction.**
   (a) Houses completed by Local Authority 13
   (b) Houses completed by County Council for Police 2
   (c) Houses completed by Private Enterprise .... Nil
   (d) Houses under Construction by Local Authority 4
   (e) Houses under Construction by Private Enterprise 3
   (f) Total Houses Owned by the Local Authority 140

4. **Meat Inspection.**
   The whole of the meat supplied to the Urban District comes from the Ministry's Slaughter Houses at King's Lynn. During the year, 164 lbs. Beef and 29 lbs. Mutton were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

5. **Food Inspection.**
   No adulteration of any foodstuff was reported during the year. 143 tins and packets of various foodstuffs were surrendered voluntarily as unfit for human consumption.

6. **Milk and Dairies.**
   There are three distributors of milk in the Urban District. None of them produces milk in the Urban area.

7. **Movable Dwellings.**
   There are two licensed caravans.

8. **Public Cleansing.**
   (a) Scavenging. The whole of the scavenging of both County and District Roads is undertaken by the District Council's employees. On the whole, the streets are kept tidy.
   (b) Refuse Collection. House refuse is collected once weekly throughout the district. A number of properties situated just

outside the District in the Broomhill and Crow Hall areas are also served. Disposal of refuse is now by means of tipping on land at the sewage works.

9. **Salvage.**

The Council continued the salvaging of waste paper during the year. Collections fell from 48 tons 2 cwts. 2 qrs. in the previous year to 42 tons 2 cwts. 2 qrs.

Rags and bones are not salvaged.

10. **Disinfestation.**

Premises in Lynn Road which were verminous were disinfested.

11. **Destruction of Rats and Mice.**

Poisoning was carried out at the Refuse Tip, Sewage Works, and on the Sewers. Forty premises in the town were also treated by the Council. The eradication of rats is not practicable until defective sewers have been replaced.

12. **Water Supply.**

The Water Supply in the District is from mains of the Wisbech and District Water Board. The supply comes from deep wells in the chalk at Marham. Three samples of water were taken from a private well. Fourteen properties were connected to the Board's mains during the year. In one case, a piped supply of water for two houses was given instead of an unsatisfactory well supply.

13. **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

Consulting Engineers have prepared a scheme for the improvement of the sewerage and sewage disposal systems.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act — Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	6	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	28	16	Nil	Nil
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-Workers' Premises,)	—	—	Nil	Nil
Total	37	22	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	1	Nil
Over-crowding	—	—	—	—	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.1)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) : (a) Insufficient	2	1	—	1	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	—	—	—	—	Nil
(c) Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	Nil
Other Offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outwork,)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Total	3	2	—	2	Nil

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK

Sections 110 and 111 — Nil.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

W. D. WAINE,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.